



BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
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FACT SHEET

CERTIFICATION TO TREAT PRIMARY OPEN ANGLE GLAUCOMA

GLAUCOMA CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Optometrists may become certified to treat primary open angle glaucoma in patients over the age of 18 providing they meet the following requirements as defined by Business & Professions Code §3041(f)(1)-(3), §3041(j) and §3041.3:

1. The optometrist must be certified in the use of therapeutic pharmaceutical agents (TPA).
2. The optometrist must satisfactorily complete a 24-hour didactic course developed by an accredited California school of optometry.
 - EXEMPTION: Optometrists who graduated from an accredited school of optometry on or after May 1, 2000 are exempt from this requirement.
3. After completing the didactic course, must collaborate with an ophthalmologist on the treatment of 50 glaucoma patients who are over the age of 18 for a period of two years.
4. The optometrist will make a provisional diagnosis of glaucoma for each patient.
5. The optometrist and the patient will identify a collaborating ophthalmologist. The ophthalmologist must be located geographically appropriate to the patient.
6. The optometrist shall develop a treatment plan and an initial proposal for therapy.
7. The optometrist shall send the relevant information [examination-history-treatment plan] to the collaborating ophthalmologist.
8. The collaborating ophthalmologist shall examine the patient and shall refute or confirm the diagnosis in writing within 30 days.
9. When the diagnosis has been confirmed in writing, the optometrist may begin treatment.
10. The optometrist shall not use more than 2 concurrent topical medications in treating the patient with glaucoma.
11. If there is any change in medication for treating the patient with glaucoma, the optometrist shall inform the ophthalmologist.
12. At the end of a year, the optometrist shall send a written report to the collaborating ophthalmologist about the achievement of goals contained in the plan.
13. The ophthalmologist shall acknowledge receipt of the report in writing to the optometrist within 10 days.

GLAUCOMA CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (CONTINUED)

14. If the treatment goals are not achieved with the use of 2 topical medications, the optometrist shall refer the patient to an ophthalmologist requested by the patient.
15. The collaborating ophthalmologist may, at his/her discretion, periodically examine the patient.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Following are the instructions for completing and submitting the required application and associated form to apply for glaucoma certification:

1. Submit a state "Application for Glaucoma Certification" and the associated form, "Documentation of Collaborative Treatment of Glaucoma Patients". (No fee is required)
2. Provide proof of satisfactorily completing a 24-hour didactic course developed by an accredited California school of optometry.
 - EXEMPTION: You are exempt from this course if you graduated from an accredited school of optometry on or after May 1, 2000.
3. Submit proof of collaborative treatment of 50 glaucoma patients for a period of two years for each patient under the terms specified in B&P§3041(f)(2)(A)-(I).
4. Submit proof of a collaborating ophthalmologist.
 - The ophthalmologist must be located geographically appropriate to the patient.

You may call and request these forms at (916) 575-7170 or go to the Board's web site at www.optometry.ca.gov, click on [Permits/Forms/ Applications](#), then click on [Application for Glaucoma Certification](#) and [Documentation of Collaborative Treatment of Glaucoma Patients](#). There is no fee to submit this application.